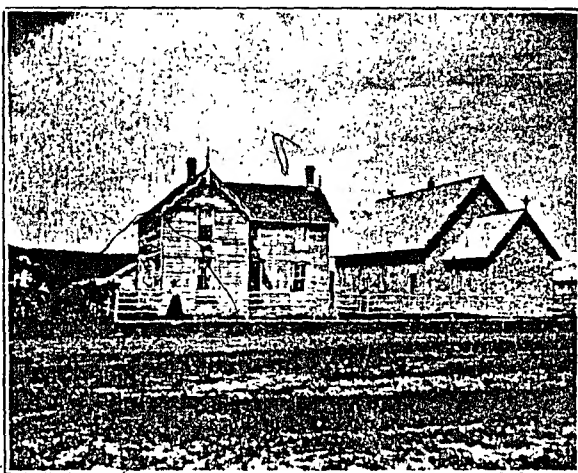


*Local Histories - Ft. Qu'Appelle -
Churches*

Diocese of Qu'Appelle

Church of S. John the Evangelist

Fort Qu'Appelle
Saskatchewan

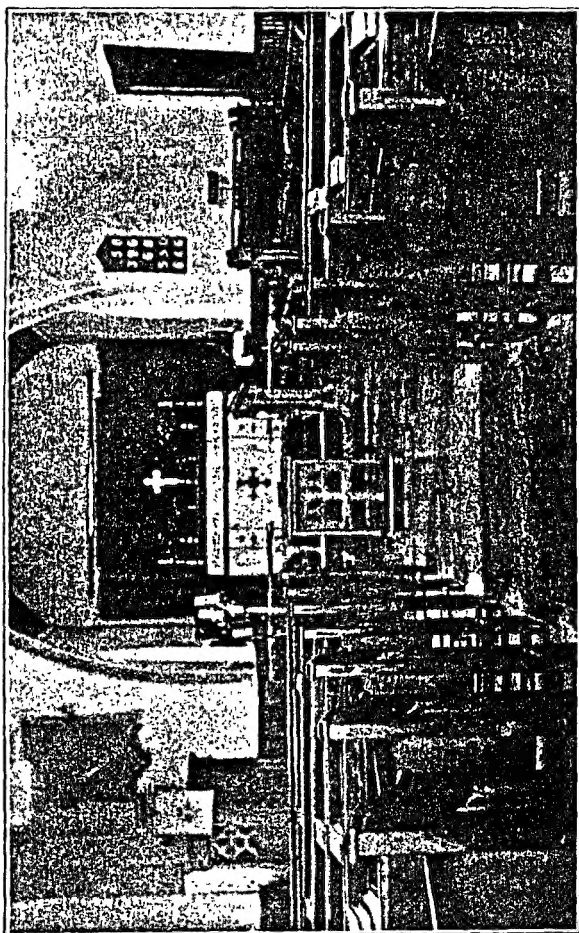


Church and Vicarage in 1885

JUBILEE MEMENTO

1885-1935

ARCHIVES
OF
SASKATCHEWAN



Interior of Church

JUBILEE OF THE CHURCH, FORT QU'APPELLE

1885-1935

Dear Parishioners:

Fifty years is not a long time in the history of nations, but that short period takes us far back into the beginning of things on the Western Prairie so far as the organization of the Church in the Diocese is concerned. It is true the Rev. John West visited Qu'Appelle House as far back as January, 1822, and spent three weeks, during which time continuous services were held and the Sacraments of the Church were given. It is also true that the offices of the Church were read from time to time by the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, and there were probably visits made by our missionary Priests from the Touchwood Hills Post since the year 1854. Yet it was not until the Diocese of Qu'Appelle was formed in 1884 and the first Bishop of the Diocese consecrated in that year that the regular organization of the Church commenced. Fort Qu'Appelle was very closely connected with the early history and development of this new land, and I am sure it will be in your minds to very fittingly commemorate the Jubilee of your Church of S. John the Evangelist, and I hope to be with you on that occasion.

I have supplied the Very Rev. Dean Wells Johnson, your esteemed Rector, and one who has been intimately connected with your parish and district from the very early days of settlement, with a copy of both the Petition and Sentence of Consecration of your Church.

I am,

Yours very truly,

EDWIN QU'APPELLE, Bishop.

This is the first time I have addressed you as Bishop through a Pastoral Letter and I have waited so that it may come to you as a Christmas message. Time brings changes which remove responsibilities from the shoulders of some to the shoulders of others; this we must expect and prepare for. If we can in our time not only carry on through whatever tests and trials may be ours, but at the same time make easier the pathway of others, and particularly of those who are to take up our responsibilities, then we shall not have failed. The Christmas Season brings a message of love which has never failed.

Petition to Consecrate was signed by^d Dan Lewis, missionary in charge of Qu'Appelle district. S. Cruthers and H. B. Joyner, Churchwardens; John Nixon and Hugh A. J. Macdougall, Vestrymen.

SENTENCE OF CONSECRATION

In the Name of God. Amen.

Whereas we did lately receive the Petition of the Reverend Dan Lewis, missionary in charge of the district of Fort Qu'Appelle, and of the several Churchwardens and parishioners of the said district of Fort Qu'Appelle, whose names and signatures were thereunto subscribed, humbly praying among other things that we should be pleased by virtue of our Pastoral and Episcopal office to consecrate the new Church or Edifice to be the Church of the District of Fort Qu'Appelle aforesaid, to be called S. John the Evangelist.

Whereas we have taken into our most serious consideration and complied with the same.

We, Adelbert by Divine permission, Bishop of Qu'Appelle, by virtue of our Ordinary and Episcopal authority, now separate and set apart the said edifice, place or structure containing in length from east to west fifty-nine feet, and in width from north to south twenty-five feet, inclusive of outside walls, from all common and profane uses, and do hereby dedicate the same as the Church of S. John the Evangelist to God and Divine worship and do consecrate it for the Celebration of Divine Service according to the use of the Church of England, and we do openly and publicly declare that it shall continue separated, dedicated and consecrated by this our definite sentence and final decree, which we make, pronounce and promulge in these writings.

Saving and reserving to ourselves and our successors Bishops of Qu'Appelle all Ordinary and Episcopal jurisdiction, rights and privileges.

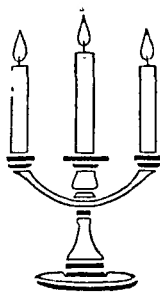
In testimony whereof we have caused our Episcopal Seal to be hereunto affixed this Twenty-seventh day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight-five, and in the second year of our Consecration.

Signed, ADELBERT,
Bishop of Qu'Appelle.

All the foregoing I have copied from the original documents this twenty-fifth day of January, 1886, and I declare them all and singular to be true copies.

H. HAVELOCK SMITH,

Registrar pro-tem.




*HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF S. JOHN THE**EVANGELIST, FORT QU'APPELLE.**1853 - 1935*

Fort Qu'Appelle is beautifully situated in the Qu'Appelle Valley, between the second and third of the four lakes, the valley here is a little over a mile wide and 250 feet deep. Here was a Hudson Bay Post and old-timers can remember the old Fort with its high stockade fence and log buildings, the fence has disappeared and all the buildings except one section of the log house in which Mr. Archie McDonald was the last resident. The one section left was in a bad state of repair and would soon have fallen had it not been recently attended to; here some of us remember spending pleasant evenings and here General Middleton had his headquarters for a time in the Riel Rebellion of 1885. Through the Fort ran the trail to Prince Albert, still known as the old telegraph trail although but little of it is now visible. Along this trail passed many a transport division in the Rebellion carrying supplies from Troy, the original name of South Qu'Appelle, to the front. During those anxious days the Rev. Dan Lewis opened the vicarage as a place of refuge for some of the women and children whose home was in the country.

The first recorded visit of an Anglican clergyman to the Qu'Appelle valley was in 1822 when the Rev. John West visited Qu'Appelle House. The location of this house is not known but Mr. West spent three weeks in the valley and doubtless visited the spot where Fort Qu'Appelle now stands.

In 1858 a party of surveyors visited the western prairies and published a book with a record of their travels; from this book, kindly lent by Mr. Rook, the following is taken without permission.



The Qu'Appelle Mission is situated between the second and third Fishing Lakes; it was established in 1858. For some time past, however, Charles Pratt, the catéchist, has resided where the mission is situated, and has constructed a comfortable log-house. The Rev. James Settee, the missionary, a native of Swampy Cree origin, occupied Pratt's house. On Sunday we attended service in Pratt's house; the Rev. Mr. Settee read the prayers in English with great ease and correctness; he preached in Ojibway, and a hymn was sung in the Cree language.

When the Rev. James Settee arrived at the Mission, the Crees of the Sandy Hills having received intelligence that the Bishop had sent a "Praying Man" to teach them the truths of Christianity, directed messengers to inquire whether "the great praying father had sent plenty of rum; if so, they would soon become followers of the white man's Manitou." The messengers returned saying that the great praying father hoped that the Plain Crees would soon abandon the practice of demanding rum in exchange for their pemmican and robes. The messengers were told to go back and say they didn't want a missionary at all. There are very few tents about the mission at present, the Indians being in the plains engaged in hunting the buffalo. Mr. Settee speaks English very fluently, the field of his labour is extensive but not at present promising.

Coming to our own day we find that the first Church meeting was held on the 3rd July, 1883. Rev. Mr. Cooper was in the chair. The question of building a vicarage was discussed and the following were put on a committee to see what could be done, Messrs. Watson, Passy, O'Grundy, White, Hayward, Gillispie, Col. McDonald and Willoughby.

On the 22nd September, 1883, at a meeting with the Ven. Archdeacon Pinkham in the chair the first wardens, R. Paget and Capt. French, were appointed and the parish named St. John's. The vicarage was built in 1884.

Second of March, 1885, a Church building committee was appointed consisting of the incumbent, the Rev.

Dan Lewis, and Messrs. Nixon, McDonald, Joyner and Passy. During this time services were being regularly held in the Town Hall, which still stands and is known as Dix Theatre. On Christmas Day, 1885, the Church was completed and the first service held in it. The cost of the Church was \$2,428.25. On the 27th December the Church was consecrated by Bishop Anson, the first Bishop of the diocese. Bishop Anson was appointed by the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury on Friday, the 23rd day of May, 1884, to the newly formed See of Assinibola, as our diocese was then named, and consecrated on the 24th June, 1884, at Lambeth Parish Church.

In 1891 a bell was given to the Church by the Rev. R. C. Crockett. In 1902 the stone tower was completed and paid for with the help of a goodly sum collected in England by Hr. H. H. Hayward; it was called the Burn Memorial Tower in memory of our second bishop, who died in 1898 after a short episcopate of four years. In 1904 a stone vestry was added. In 1927 the present rectory was purchased for the sum of \$5,200 and the old house thrown in. In the same year electric light was installed in the Church.

The following are the incumbents of S. John's: Rev. Dan Lewis 1883, evidently a deep reader judging by the books he left behind, which must have been too deep for most of his successors as they are still here. W. G. LeJeune 1888, he did not last long, very fond of the bachelors, some liked him and some didn't, fairly true of most parsons. R. C. Crockett 1889, he didn't last long either but he gave a bell which still rings in the Church at Lipton. P. K. Lyon, 1889, he lived for a while with Dan Lewis, the Lyon in Daniel's den, he lived for a time too near Abernethy, where he got married and preached much better sermons ever after. J. P. Sargent, 1890, who came west with railway construction camps and spent some few years in Moose Jaw before coming here, he was afterward Dean of Qu'Appelle, a grand old man, he had two charming daughters, some of the clergymen were very fond of visiting him. H. A. Holmes, 1894, only here a short while. D. Munro, 1894, said he did not think a parson

should stay long in one place because the people would get to know him, he didn't. F. W. Johnson, 1894, stayed till 1904, his horses will be remembered much longer than his sermons; he held services at Abernethy, Balcarres, Katepwe, Cupar, Charlie Neil's, Spondon and Pheasant Forks. M. H. Winter, 1904, during his time the vestry was built and the wooden contraption put on the tower so that the bell could be better heard; wouldn't it be fine if we could put a little spire in its place as a jubilee offering. Mr. Winter later on joined the Roman church. A. C. Bruce, 1907, a man who no one seems to remember. T. W. Cunliffe, 1908, a small man with the biggest of hearts, one wonders how he found room for it in so small a body, and a long liver too, he's not dead yet, everybody loved him, so my wife says. W. A. Lewis, 1911, very nice man but unfortunately the minute book or books from 1911 to 1924 have disappeared, but it is recorded that during Mr. Lewis' stay a brick chimney was built in the Church and the envelope system introduced. E. K. Moffat, 1915, no record during his regime remains, but he is gratefully remembered by many. J. F. Cox, 1918, a learned man, the first in Canada to obtain the degree of Master of Sacred Theology, but even he when he moved to Redcliffe left Mr. Lewis' books behind him. His wife was a very kindly soul and always on hand when trouble visited any home. C. F. Orman, 1924, a very sincere, conscientious priest and a good worker, he took services at Lipton, Balrobie, Ormiston and at the San., which by the by, was opened in 1917 and at which services have been held ever since. He was much helped in his work by his wife and family until he left to go to Salmon Arm, B.C. F. W. Johnson, 1934, back again and carrying on the same work Mr. Orman did with the addition of the services at Springbrook.

In the original district served from the Fort there were two churches, one at Katepwe, one at Abernethy, both built in the 80's; now there are churches at Balcarres, Lipton, Cupar and Spondon.

The work at Fort San is most interesting. This is the only Province where there is free treatment for T.B.

patients. In our San there are 300 patients, they receive the best of attention and there is even a fund to supply those who have no money with little necessities and comforts such as paper, stamps, shaves, etc. There are a goodly number of Anglicans and Greek Orthodox for whom celebrations of the Holy Communion are frequently held, arrangements for these services are most willingly made by members of the staff.

Further records show that the Rev. Hillier was the first missionary Priest to have been stationed at the Fort, this was in 1853. Bishop Machray of Rupert's Land visited the Fort in 1866 and in 1883.



MEMORIALS IN THE CHURCH.

Tablets to the memory of Edward Basil White, 1886; Harold Lingard Green, 1890; George Charnock, killed in action, 1917; Thomas A. Dillon, killed in action, 1918; Allister Smales, 1924. A tablet erected by the Canadian Legion with the names of seventeen men who gave their lives in the Great War.

The Lectern in memory of the Rt. Rev. W. J. Burn, our second Bishop, who died in 1896, given by Miss Digby. Fold Stool in memory of Arthur Pearson, 1904. Altar Rails, memory of Reginald Bates, 1910. Prayer Desk, memory of Louisa Vidal, given by the W.A. Prayer Book, given by the J.W.A., 1924. The Cross on the altar is in memory of Charles W. Molony, Priest. The small candle sticks on the altar in the vestry were given by Mrs. G. M. Smales and the large ones on the altar in the church by His Grace the Archbishop of Rupertsland when he left the diocese. The hangings at the back of the altar were the gift of Miss McDonald. The white altar frontal was made by Dean Johnson's sister and has been in use for nearly forty years.



It is absolutely impossible to estimate the value of the work of the women in any parish and it is quite impossible here to give any history of their activities, they have worked hard and left but little written record behind them. There was a Ladies' Aid in existence before the W.A. but no one knows when it started; the first mention of it is at a meeting held in 1892 when a motion was passed by the vestry asking the Ladies' Aid to allow their donation to the bell and tower fund to be devoted to the payment of the debt; just like the men, but what happened history does not relate. When the Ladies' Aid was changed to the W.A. no one seems to know, but it was before 1904. The J.W.A. has been in existence for a good many years and the Girls' Auxilliary for two or three. All these societies are doing most valuable work. The Sunday School was started in 1905, Mrs. Wylie is now the superintendent and she and the other teachers are to be congratulated on the success attending their efforts, many children from the S.S. have obtained certificates from the Annual G.B.R.E. examinations. In 1934 a Young People's Society was organized, with Mr. B. Evans as first president, it seems to fill a long felt need; Miss B. Shore is now the president.

The following are the officers this year of the various organizations: Wardens, R. Hayward and N. E. Rose. Vestry, Messrs. Bushell, Wilson, Dr. Simes, J. Hamilton, Wylie, McFadden, with Blewitt, Pepper, Stiff and Bye from the San. President of the W.A., Mrs. Dr. Hall. Vice-president, Mrs. N. E. Rose. J.W.A., Mrs. Wylie. Supt. Girls' Auxilliary, started two or three years ago with Mrs. Sturdy as director and Miss E. Hamilton as president, now Mrs. Hamilton is director with Mrs. R. Harrison as assistant and Miss Mary Fisher as president. The Font Roll is in the hands of Mrs. Savage, and Mrs. Hamilton is the head of the Altar Guild.

The following have served as Wardens during the life of the parish: Messrs. R. Paget, Capt. French, S. Cruthers, H. B. Joyner, A. Atherton, J. Nixon, H. Macdougall, E. C. Molony, E. W. Miller, D. H. McDonald,

H. H. Hayward, C. Featherstonhaugh, T. Baker, J. A. McDonald, F. Jenner, R. Hayward, A. Wylie, F. Lawrence, and N. E. Rose. If any names are missing it is owing to the loss of some of the minute books.

At Lipton the Wardens are: Messrs: C. J. Neil, who has been a Warden over forty years and a Vestryman nearly all his life, and J. Allen; Mrs. McWean is the president of the W.A. and looks after a small Sunday School.

At Ormiston Messrs. G. Smales and W. Read are the wardens and Mrs. Pumfrey is president of the W.A.

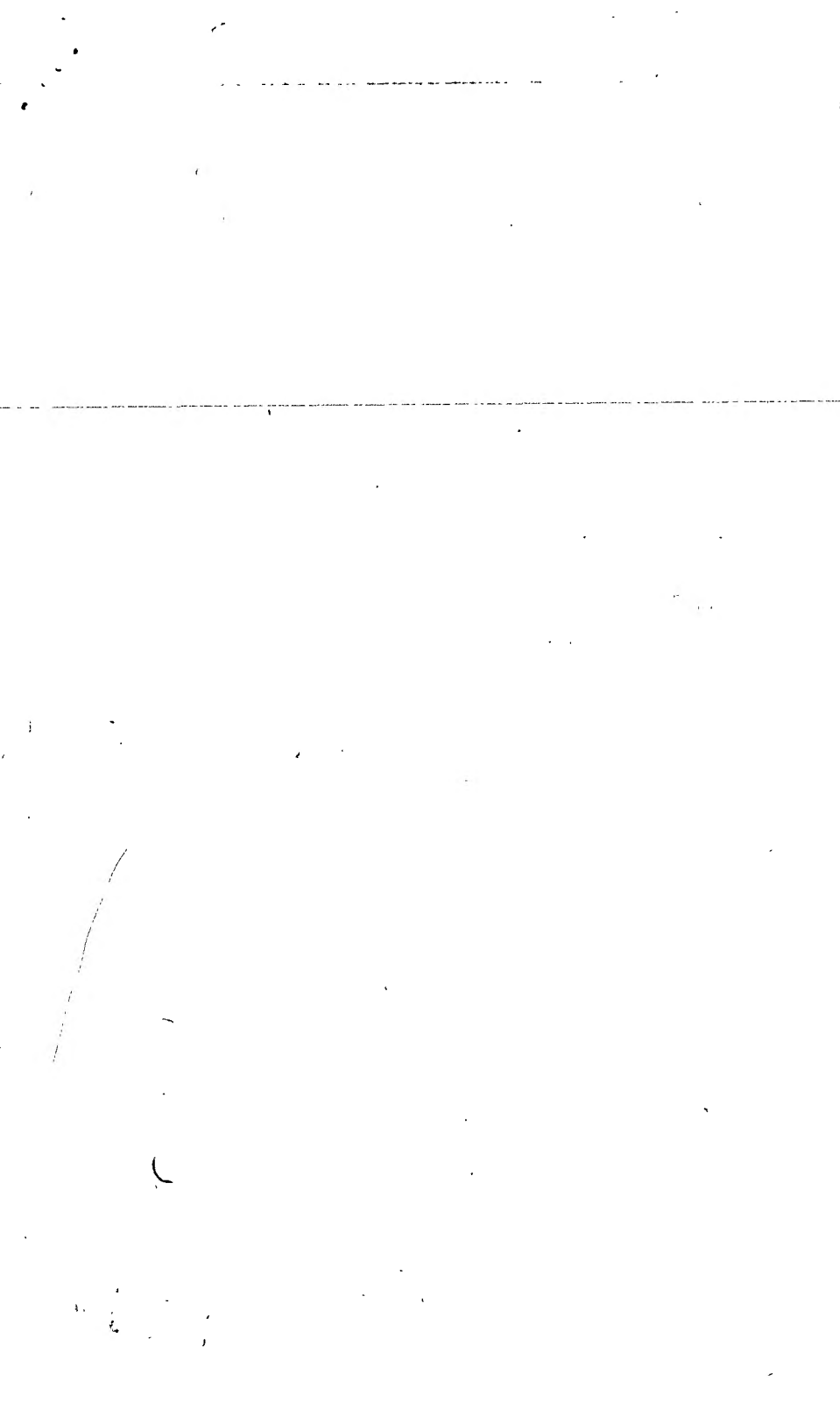
The San. works in conjunction with the Fort. There is a Sunday School at the San. looked after by the Rector with the assistance of Miss Patricia Ferguson, who plays the hymns and teaches the small children. Miss Broderick helps by playing for the regular services which are held at 11 a.m. twice a month.

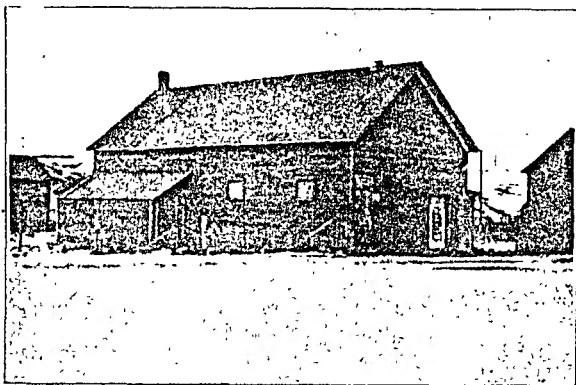
Balrobie works in conjunction with Lipton; Mr. Fisher and family who live near the school house, are the ringleaders and look after the parson when he goes to the school for service. Mrs. Fisher is a very good cook.

At Springbrook there is no organization so far, as the services there are only recently being held. The Kenworthys and Farthings are the mainstay of the congregation, the former looking after the heating, etc. of the church, which belongs to the Presbyterians but has been unused for many years. Mr. James Bournes has been in the settlement from its earliest days, he is a faithful supporter of the church and would, it is certain, attend the services were it not for his sad affliction of deafness.

In our Jubilee year we have had much to encourage us, the services at all points have been well attended, and the number of candidates confirmed is 63 and 23 baptisms.

Since the parish started there have been 671 baptized, 416 confirmed, 163 weddings and 223 funerals.





*Old Town Hall, where services were held from
1883 to 1885*

